

**City of Alton City Commission
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm
October 26, 2021 Minutes**



Members Present

Mayor Salvador Vela
Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr.
Commissioner Ricardo Garza
Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr.

Members Absent

Commissioner Richard Arevalo

City Staff Present

Jeff Underwood
Ricardo Gonzalez
Baudelia Rojas
Jonathan Flores
Janie Flores
Cristina Garcia
Mauro Sandoval
Samm Mercado
Rosie Tello
John Salinas

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCE A QUORUM IS PRESENT

With a quorum of the Alton City Commission present, Mayor Salvador Vela called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

II. CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. City of Alton is soliciting input from the public for Urban County Program Year 35 (2022).

Mayor Salvador Vela opened the public hearing at 7:34 pm. Cristina Garcia, Planning Director, stated that no letters or request from the public had been received. No one was present for comments. Mayor Vela closed the public hearing at 7:36 pm.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Approve the minutes of the City Commission meeting of October 12, 2021.

Discuss and consider request by Dinora Flores, owner, to rezone 1521 West Saint Francis Avenue from “C-1” Neighborhood Commercial District to “MF-1” Multi-Family Low Density District.

Discuss and consider request by Rio Delta Engineering, representing Fortis Land Company, LLC., owner, for final plat approval of the proposed Alton Pointe V Subdivision.

Discuss and consider request by Rio Delta Engineering, representing Fortis Land Company, LLC., owner, for preliminary plat approval of the proposed Cedar Ridge Subdivision.

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and consider the approval of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Alton and Hidalgo County for the 2021-2022 Urban County Program.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this annual agreement allows the City to access the HUD money. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

2. Discuss and consider authorizing HCE to prepare plans for Mayberry and Mile 6 Road Drainage Improvements.

Baudelia Rojas, Deputy City Manager, stated that this request was to authorize HCE to prepare plans and specifications for drainage improvements to the area of Mile 6 and Mayberry. Mrs. Rojas stated that the surrounding area of the intersection of 6 Mile and Mayberry are flood prone due to lack of drainage infrastructure. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

3. Discuss and consider approving the Investment Report of the 3rd quarter of 2021 according to the Public Funds Investment Act.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that every quarter staff is required to report to the Commission what is being done with City funds. Mr. Underwood stated that there was a good amount of money that was spent in this quarter. The General Fund was at a loss of almost \$741,000.00, but with the recovery ARP funds coming in at over 2.2 million dollars it balanced out funds from \$6,697,320.25 to and ending balance of \$7,549,062.11 which will allow for several drainage projects to be worked on and will be made a priority. The increase in funds is largely due to the influx of federal funds due to Covid relief. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

4. Discuss and consider approving the removal of \$1,657.80 receivable in General Fund at 09/30/2021.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this item was an end of the year removal of receivables that Mrs. Tello, Finance Director deems as uncollectable of which are NSF checks. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza.

5. Discuss and consider approving the removal of \$11,237.52 due from Alton Youth Club in General Fund at 09/30/2021.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that most of the amount due comes from the baseball program which had a tournament in 2016 and the City loaned money to the Youth Program with a promise for payback but has not happened and has been in the books for about five years. Mrs. Tello, Finance Director, would like to clear out the amount due with the Commission's approval. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Discuss and consider the approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the AmeriCorps – Senior Companion Program and the City of Alton Senior Citizen's Program.

Samm Mercado, Community Services Director, stated that this MOU is for a partnership with the RGV Senior Companion Program under the Community Services Department of Hidalgo County and the City of Alton Senior Citizen Program. Mr. Mercado explained that the COA Senior Citizen Program has seniors which voluntary take on tasks and activities to complete of which hours spent by these seniors are reported at the end of the month to County Community Services Department. Seniors that have volunteered get rewarded at the end of the year with a certificate and a pin. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

7. Discuss and consider approving the purchase and installation of a storm water pump station for the Hayes Avenue Retention Pond.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that this location was on S. Trosper and this retention pond was built with the subdivision about 20 years ago. The retention pond has no outfall therefore the installation of a pump station, which City crew could turn on when it fills up, would pump water north to the system that ends up flowing out to the County system by N. Chicago. The system is self contained and completely protected, a fence will be installed around it. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Emilio Cantu Jr. Motion carried 4-0.

8. Discuss and consider authorizing staff to issue a Request for Proposals for administrative services related to the CDBG-2019 DR-4454 Lower Rio Grande

Valley and Severe South Texas Storms of 2018DR-4377 grant program administered by the Texas General Land Office.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated the Texas General Land Office has money available to assist with drainage projects. Staff would like to issue request for proposals from firms that deal with the GLO regularly and once a firm is selected they will be paired up with an engineer to work on projects that will be scored to see which projects can be done within the one million dollar max although there is no cap as to how many one million dollar projects can be done. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

9. Discuss and consider approval of Resolution 2021-26, indicating the number of votes for the Appraisal District Board of Directors for 2022-2023 as expressed by the elected City Commission of the City of Alton.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that City of Alton had ten votes. Therefore, his recommendation is that five votes go to Eddy Betancourt and five votes go to Amador Requenez. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

10. Updated Mayoral Declaration of Local State of Disaster due to public health emergency.

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, stated that the declaration be continued through November 9, 2021. Staff recommends approval. Motion to approve was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr. and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071 & 551.072

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel
- c) Real Estate

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Pending and/or potential litigation
- b) Personnel
- c) Real Estate

IX. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff Underwood, City Manager, reported that two Covid vaccine clinics were coming up with the first one being on November 4th and will offer first, second and booster vaccine. The clinic will also offer the flu, shingles and pneumonia vaccine. Covid vaccine for children six years and up will hopefully be eligible by this date so invitations will be sent to schools.

Also, a check for \$294,000.00 was cut for the new fire truck that was purchased along with Precinct 3 and Urban County money. Fire Chief is pushing to get the new fire truck as soon as possible but for now it looks like it will be by early January.

National Night Out will be on Friday, October 29th in Sylvia Vela Park from 6 to 9 pm and a good crowd is expected.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm was moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arturo Galvan Jr and seconded by Commissioner Ricardo Garza. Motion carried 4-0.

CITY OF ALTON



Salvador Vela, Mayor

ATTEST:



Baudelia Rojas CPM, TRMC|CMC
City Secretary



Approved by City Commission November 9, 2021